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and in the exposure to sicknesses of various kinds, pulmonary and other, which the work entails. Many of these evils will, however, be abated by the progressive introduction of machinery and the system of shifts which will be possible with large production.

Dr. Arnold has apparently done his work in a thorough and painstaking manner though the style in many places is inexcusably crude. It does not appear, however, that from the strictly economic point of view the study is of great value. The industry which is discussed offers at best a not very forcible exemplification of very elementary and commonplace principles. To the student of the general conditions of labor it will be more welcome.

H. W. STUART.

Annals of the British Peasantry. By RUSSELL M. GARNIER. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. xvi + 460.

CERTAINLY in this latest volume by the author of the valuable *History of the English Landed Interest* the "short and simple annals of the poor" have exceeded the circumscribed limits poetically set for them. Short and simple they are no longer for Mr. Garnier has performed his task with a scholarly thoroughness which, judging from his copious footnotes and careful bibliography, seems to have allowed no spring of information to run to waste. Practically, although possibly not consciously, the aim of the book is to lead us to a better understanding of the nature and position of the British agricultural laborer at the present day, resting as they do on a historic basis, and to a saner estimate of what may be done both for and by him through the agency of the schemes for social amelioration which are now so numerous.

Strictly speaking, the *Annals* takes up the history of the British agriculturist from the period of the statutes *Extenta Manerii* and *Quia Emptores* (1280-1290). Before coming to this period, however, there are four chapters of an introductory character in which the origin of the employer and the laborer together with the essentials of the land régime introduced by the Conquest are discussed in an especially scholarly way. The patriarchal form of government of the laborers which had been consolidated by the two statutes already mentioned and the legislation accompanying them did not last long. The mutual

contract between landlords and their villeinage, which approximated so nearly to slavery, was broken and done away momentarily by the Black Death. Efforts to sustain the old economy, coupled with the general reactionary spirit of the times, led to the stringent measures which are the origin of the labor laws, but the severity and unfitness of these statutes were the source of wide agrarian agitation (culminating in the insurrections of Mortimer and Jack Cade) which was only stamped out in blood.

The past quarter-century Mr. Garnier denominates the Golden Age of Labor. The British peasant has been enfranchised and his condition ameliorated, but his inheritance of incapacity and lack of self-control is yet heavy upon him. Only gradually is he learning how to better his lot. In the meantime he has become the spoiled pet of the national family. Would-be philanthropists are quick to scent imaginary abuses, and the peasant himself is grown arrogant. Abolition of large estates, subdivision of land, prohibition of the custom of family settlement, state administration of the soil, confiscation of glebes, sequestration of tithes, the extension of the franchise, free education, and high wages irrespective of industrial conditions—all these demands the new movement has written upon its banner. The sound economic philosophy of the earlier part of the century is replaced by the grand, high-soaring sentimentalism of the new sociology and ignorant abuse of the adherents of the true economic faith. The belief that the economist has been brought into the world only to be kicked by the sociologist and the land nationalizer was never more baldly expressed than now. It is considered only a question of political expediency whether the rights of the squirearchy should be ended or amended. Vested rights count for nothing. The virulent poison of Mr. George or the drastic purge of Dr. Wallace must be forced down the throats of the owners of property—such is the programme of the self-styled “new school.” But the *vis inertia* of the peasant’s ignorance retards these his would-be helpers. When told that in future there are to be no squires, no parsons, no game, the peasant responds: “Then who is to pay me my wages and sick-funds.”

Such, briefly, is the tenor of Mr. Garnier’s book. While much has been written on various parts of the period treated, there is possibly no work which covers the whole in a manner at once as scholarly and as convenient. One criticism among a number that might, however, be passed, would be that the parts of the work are somewhat dispro-

portioned one to another, and that details are, through faults in the style, frequently introduced in an unskillful manner.

H. P. W.

Lois Sociales—Recueil des Textes de la Legislation Sociale de la France. JOSEPH CHAILLEY-BERT and ARTHUR FONTAINÉ.
Paris: Leon Chailley, 1895. 8vo. pp. ix + 407.

THIS is a compilation of laws relating to the laboring classes and the poor of France. It is naturally limited (with slight exceptions) to the period since 1789.

With reference to the subjects and prevailing tendencies of legislation, the whole period is to be divided into two epochs at the year 1841, when a law protecting children against excessive labor in factories was passed by the French parliament, influenced by the example of English factory legislation through several decades, and by the exposure of shocking abuses in many factories. This was the beginning of a new era in French industrial legislation. In the earlier half century the social problems dealt with and the methods of dealing with them were essentially those which had been familiar for generations before the revolution. The restrictive system was even revived in some of its details, as by limitation upon the number of butchers and bakers and by the regulation of prices; legislation, aside from restriction, provided for the relief of poverty by workhouses, *monts de piété*, asylums and insurance against disability and old age, or forbade the raising the prices of necessities of life by monopolies or by withholding goods from market. These meliorative devices were all ancient. Even the *Conseils de Prud'hommes* were not a new conception. With all their pretence of bold logic, the French at the time of the revolution and just after it, offered nothing new toward the legislative cure of industrial evils. They attempted only to correct wrongs in the *distribution of wealth*, through interference with exchange or by aid to the poor. The effects of this legislation upon morality and bodily welfare were only incidental to the purposes of economic well-being. But with the legislation which distinguishes the later era, and of which factory legislation is typical, the order is reversed; here, immediate moral and physical well-being are given the preference, even to sacrificing the direct economic advantage of the laborer. The appearance of this class of laws is more truly revolutionary than the destruction of the guild sys-